

heart of the community. It has been a shining example of a faith community that ministers to its own while reaching out with a welcoming hand to the larger community in a myriad of ways. The pastor and parishioners of St. Nicholas Church have much about which to celebrate and be proud. We extend to them a hearty wish for continued success as a beacon of spiritual inspiration to those throughout the greater Wyoming Valley.

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**THREATENED AND ENDANGERED  
SPECIES RECOVERY ACT OF 2005**

SPEECH OF

**HON. RICHARD W. POMBO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 29, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3824) to amend and reauthorize the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to provide greater results conserving and recovering listed species, and for other purposes:

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Chairman, regarding the Judicial jurisdiction under H.R. 3824, the United States District Court shall have jurisdiction over an action by a requestor arising over a written determination under Section 12(d) or a claim for aid under Section 13 of the Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act, including the determination of the documentation of the foregone use and the fair market value thereof.

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**CELEBRATING HISPANIC  
HERITAGE MONTH**

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 7, 2005*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate with my amazingly diverse constituents in the 12th Congressional District of California Hispanic Heritage Month. I am grateful that September 15th through October 15th has been set aside to commemorate the extraordinary heritage and the significant contributions that people of Hispanic descent have made to the United States.

Hispanic and Latino influence predates the establishment of our Nation and can be seen in the discovery and founding, as well as the continued prosperity of America. The influence of Mexican Americans, Cuban Americans, and every other American of Hispanic descent, has enriched our country. Currently, 26 Hispanic Americans serve in the House of Representatives, and two serve in the Senate. In every war in American history, Hispanic Americans have displayed valor and courage. Over 1.1 million Hispanic Americans have served in the U.S. armed forces. Indeed, 41 men of Hispanic heritage have received the Congressional Medal of Honor.

KQED, a nationally recognized public broadcaster, has awarded the following four outstanding individuals for their work in the community through the 2005 Latino Heritage Local Heroes. They are but a few of the wonderful people who have worked to make my community great.

Mr. Speaker, Felix Bedolla, a Northern California native, has served in multiple leadership roles in the arts, education, and youth mentoring. Mr. Bedolla is the program director of Aldea/Nuestra Esperanza, which is a Latino Multi-Service Center offering drug, alcohol and mental health counseling and treatment services, parent support groups, Latino youth mentoring programs, and gang violence suppression programs.

Carlotta del Portillo, the Dean of the Mission Campus of City College of San Francisco, has facilitated access to educational opportunities and has developed vocational job training programs, which have provided a great assistance to many Hispanic Americans. Through her service in city government and community groups, Dr. del Portillo has had a positive and lasting effect on human rights, education, the Fire Department, the role of women in the Fire Department, national parks, and so much more.

Mr. Speaker, Joel Garcia has also centered his career on helping others. Specifically, Mr. Garcia contributes to his community by securing access to health and human services to the needy. Joel serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center, Inc., a non-profit, federal-qualified community health center that provides primary care health services in southern Alameda County. He plays an influential role in academia by publishing research on health law, policy, and administration.

I would like to underscore the contributions of my friend, Pedro Gonzalez, who has devoted his life to the city of South San Francisco for many years. As a public servant, he has served as a council member and mayor. Through his career, he has worked for affordable housing, childcare assistance for low-income families, national parks, community service, recreation, and education among many other issues. As president and co-founder of Historical Old Town Homeowners and Renters Association, Pedro implemented the "Siempre Adelante" program, an informational program for the community on parenting and civic participation.

In addition to those honored by KQED, I wish to further single out many other deserving leaders who have contributed so much to my community. These are the giants of government and community service who work so tirelessly around the Peninsula.

Last year, my good friend, José Cisneros was appointed by Mayor Gavin Newsom as Treasurer for the City and County of San Francisco. I have known José for a long time, and as the City's banker and chief investment officer, the City of San Francisco is in very able hands. José Cisneros received his Bachelor of Science from Sloan School of Management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and studied for his MBA at Boston University.

Mr. Speaker, the County of San Mateo is lucky to have Ortensia Lopez. As a resident of San Mateo County since 1975 and as the Executive Director of the Concilio of San Mateo County, she has helped to improve public health, energy efficiency, employment, job training, race relations, conditions for the disadvantaged, banking, and commerce. Ms. Lopez was the first member of her family to graduate from college and has won multiple awards, including "Woman Who Could Be President".

Since 1996, Daly City has benefited from the public service of Sal Torres, the city's first elected Latino official. Through his various offices in Daly City, including mayor, vice mayor and city council member, Mr. Torres has shown exemplary leadership in transforming the city into a family and children friendly place. He dedicated the Bayshore Community Center for the use of the Mid-Peninsula Boys and Girls Club as well as several parks. During his years of service Daly City ranked among the top 10 safest cities with populations exceeding 100,000.

The efforts of Elizabeth Quiros as the President of the San Mateo County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce have helped countless Hispanic Americans in my district. Her organization works as an information resource and provides networking and expansion opportunities for all its members. The success of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in promoting Hispanic business, under Ms. Quiros's, influence manifested in the Chamber's recognition as the 2004 Small Hispanic Chamber of the Year. Ms. Quiros has worked tirelessly to identify the needs of the Hispanic Community and ensuring equity in the treatment of Hispanic Americans.

Mr. Speaker, the problems that the Hispanic community faces with the Nation as a whole are daunting. According to the latest data and statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Latinos represent 14 percent of the population of the United States but account for 20 percent—over 164,000—of AIDS cases nationally. AIDS-related illnesses represent the fourth leading cause of death among Latinos between 25 and 44. In order to promote awareness and prevention, I support the 3rd Annual National Latino AIDS Awareness Day on October 15, 2005. We need to continue to work toward legislation to help Hispanic Americans.

This month our Nation can take a long look back at the myriad of contributions that the Hispanic community has offered and continues to offer. Hispanic Heritage Month also helps us renew our focus on difficult issues that face this community: racial profiling, affordable housing, language barriers, and unfair immigration policy.

Mr. Speaker, this vibrant part of our community offers an array of perspectives that are firmly woven into the fabric of America, and I am extremely proud to serve as a representative of a community that consists of so many great Americans. I encourage all Americans to participate in this month of celebration. I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions that Hispanic Americans have made to our Nation.

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**THREATENED AND ENDANGERED  
SPECIES RECOVERY ACT OF 2005**

SPEECH OF

**HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 29, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3824) to amend and reauthorize the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to provide greater results conserving and recovering listed species, and for other purposes:

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Chairman, the intent of Sec. 25 of H.R. 3824, the Relationship Between Section 7 Consultation and Incident Take Authorization Under Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 is to clarify that when regulations set forth under the Endangered Species Act conflict with regulations set forth under the Marine Mammal Protection Act during the review process for issuing dock permits, it is the regulations set forth under the Endangered Species Act that are the governing authority.

HONORING HIS HOLINESS ARAM I,  
CATHOLICOS OF THE ARMENIAN  
APOSTOLIC CHURCH

**HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 7, 2005*

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the second largest Armenian-American community in the state of California to welcome His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Armenian Apostolic Church. We are honored that His Holiness will be visiting our state during his October pontifical travels.

Catholicos Aram I has served the Armenian Apostolic Church with distinction since he was consecrated as spiritual leader in July of 1995. His major priority has been to reorganize and revitalize the work of the church, particularly in the areas of theological education, cultural activities, youth outreach, and the promotion of peace, justice and human rights. Additionally, he has increased the social service work of the church, improving assistance to orphans, to vulnerable children, to the elderly, and to the disabled.

I am particularly grateful that His Holiness will be visiting the 38th Congressional District on Oct. 8th, where he will attend a ceremony at the Armenian Genocide Monument at Bicknell Park in the city of Montebello. This is the only Armenian Genocide Monument to reside on public property in the United States. It is a reminder to our communities of the horrible atrocities that befell the Armenian people 90 years ago, and the world's continuing struggle against genocide wherever it occurs.

Mr. Speaker, it is a special privilege to serve my constituency on the Committee on International Relations, which recently passed H. Con. Res. 195, Commemorating and Recognizing the Armenian Genocide, and H. Res. 316, Affirming the United States Record on the Armenian Genocide. H. Con. Res. 195 acknowledges the systematic and deliberate annihilation of 1.5 million Armenians by the Ottoman Empire, and H. Res. 316 recalls the proud history of U.S. intervention in opposition to the Armenian Genocide. I hope the full House will have an opportunity to vote on and pass these important bills. The United States Congress must honor the many survivors of the Armenian Genocide who have made our nation and my district their home.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming His Holiness Aram I as he visits the Armenian Genocide Monument in Montebello, CA. This will be a rare opportunity for the Armenian Apostolic community in my district to hear from their spiritual leader. My district, the Los Angeles region, and the state of California are deeply honored by his visit.

NUCLEAR MEDICINE WEEK

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 7, 2005*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues that October 2–October 8 is Nuclear Medicine Week. Celebrated at hospitals, clinics, imaging centers, educational institutions, and corporations around the world the first full week of October each year, Nuclear Medicine Week encourages members of the nuclear medicine community to take pride in their profession.

I am proud to note that the Society of Nuclear Medicine is headquartered in Reston, Virginia in my congressional district. The Society is an international scientific and professional organization of more than 15,000 members dedicated to promoting the science, technology, and practical application of nuclear medicine. I commend the Society staff and its professional members for their outstanding work and dedication to caring for people with cancer and other serious, life-threatening illnesses that are diagnosed, managed, and treated with medical isotopes via nuclear medicine procedures.

Nuclear medicine is a medical specialty that involves the use of small amounts of medical isotopes called "tracers" to help diagnose and treat a variety of diseases. These tracers are introduced into the body by injection, swallowing, or inhalation. A special camera, called gamma camera, detects the medical isotope in the target organ, bone, or tissue and forms an image that provides data and information about the imaged area of the body. This is how nuclear medicine differs an x-ray, ultrasound or other diagnostic test—it determines the presence of disease based on function rather than anatomy.

Nuclear medicine tests are safe and painless and often identify abnormalities very early in the progression of a disease—long before some medical problems are apparent through other diagnostic tests. This early detection allows a disease to be treated in its beginning stages, which significantly improves the odds of a successful outcome.

An estimated 16 million nuclear medicine imaging and therapeutic procedures are performed on 20 million individuals each year in the United States. These procedures are a vital tool in the diagnosis and treatment of patients with cancers of the brain, breast, blood, bone, bone marrow, liver, lungs, pancreas, thyroid, ovaries, and prostate, as well as cardiovascular disease, neurological disorders such as stroke and Alzheimer's disease, and kidney disease.

Some of the more frequently performed nuclear medicine procedures include:

Bone scans to examine orthopedic injuries, fractures, tumors or unexplained bone pain.

Heart scans to identify normal or abnormal blood flow to the heart muscle, measure heart function or determine the existence or extent of damage to the heart muscle after a heart attack.

Breast scans that are used in conjunction with mammograms to more accurately detect and locate cancerous tissue in the breasts.

Liver and gallbladder scans to evaluate liver and gallbladder function.

Cancer imaging to detect tumors and determine the severity (staging) of various types of cancer.

Treatment of thyroid diseases and certain types of cancer.

Brain imaging to investigate problems within the brain itself or in blood circulation to the brain.

Renal imaging in children to examine kidney function.

Unfortunately, funding for nuclear medicine research is in jeopardy. The President's FY 2006 Budget cut the Medical Applications and Measurement Science, MAMS, Program at the Department of Energy, DOE, Office of Biological and Environmental Research, OBER, from \$37 million to \$14 million and earmarked the remaining funds for research unrelated to nuclear medicine. The DOE has funded nuclear medicine research for over 50 years. Fortunately, the House Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee restored \$35 million for the MAMS Program, but the Senate Energy and Water Appropriations bill is silent on this matter. It is vital that this small but highly successful program receive funding at the House level in conference. The MAMS Program is directly responsible for the creation of positron emission tomography, PET, and current research projects will create the next generation imaging procedures that will save lives.

I encourage my colleagues to support Nuclear Medicine Week and to support the House funding level for the MAMS Program so that our nation will continue to be at the cutting edge of life saving nuclear medicine and imaging research.

A STATEMENT ON TAIWAN  
NATIONAL DAY

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 7, 2005*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of Taiwan on the occasion of National Day on October 10.

The Republic of China (Taiwan) is our ally in the Pacific. Although it is a small island nation, it has a growing and progressive economy, providing its citizens with quality education, health care and affordable housing. In a recent survey conducted by the Geneva-based World Economic Forum, Taiwan was ranked first in Asia and fifth in the world in terms of growth competitiveness. With its well-educated population, Taiwan is an ideal training ground and place for business entrepreneurship. Much of Taiwan's economic prowess is directly attributable to Taiwan's political system.

A vibrant democracy, Taiwan's history of democratization is an important example of how other countries can change. In 2 decades Taiwan has peacefully transformed its political system, from authoritarian to democratic government, providing a role model for other non-democratic political governments in Asia. In view of China's growing military strength and intentions, the best way to safeguard Asia's permanent peace and prosperity is to have all Asian countries join forces with other democratic countries in the world to form a global community of democracies. In the meantime, we hope democracy will take roots in China. Taiwan's successful democratic experience proves that democracy can indeed thrive on Chinese soil.